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24 May 1968

MEMORANDUM FOR: Ambassador William Leonhart
Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs
Department of State

SUBJECT : Paris 14653 (DELTO 144), 24 May 1968

1. Per our 24 May telephone conversation, this Agency has serious problems with paragraph 2 of Paris 14653 and could not coordinate on any Washington authorization to the delegation to use the figures appearing therein.

2. Attached to this memorandum is our suggested substitution for the language appearing in the reference cable. We would be willing to concur in the use of this language, which is offered for your consideration.

3. As you are aware, the points at issue here are directly involved with the difference of opinion between this Agency and our military colleagues on the whole question of Communist strength and the methodology employed in strength computations. We certainly would not attempt to prevent the transmission of a message to the Paris delegation, but obviously cannot coordinate in statements that we do not believe to be accurate.

George A. Carver, Jr.
Special Assistant for Vietnamese Affairs

Attachment

Distribution:
Orig. - LDX'd to Leonhart, 24 May 68
1 - GAC/Chrono
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